



The National Fire Plan

FY 2001 Programs in South Carolina



Overview

The National Fire Plan implements program activities across the landscape to respond to the severe wildfires of 2000, reduce their impacts on rural communities, and enhance firefighting capabilities in the future. In the 13 southern States, the Plan serves to strengthen the firefighting organization, expand hazardous fuel reduction and management activities, and enhance economic development opportunities in rural communities.

In 2000, 4,871 fires burned 23,349 acres and damaged or destroyed 32 homes and 59 structures in South Carolina. Estimated National Fire Plan allocations to South Carolina include (\$ in thousands):

Firefighting		Rehab and Restoration	Hazardous Fuel Treatment	Forest Health Projects	Community Assistance				TOTAL
Preparedness	Facilities				State Fire Assistance	Volunteer Fire Assistance	Economic Action Programs	Comm'ty & PrivateLand Fire Assist..	
2,581	0	0	743	19	804	113	20	132	4,412

Firefighting Resources

Staffing the most efficient organizational level (MEL) to provide prompt initial attack suppression on wildfires.

- 8 permanent positions and 13 temporary positions in the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests fire organization are being filled in FY 2001. These positions will build the most efficient level of organizational readiness on the National Forests.
- Four engines are being purchased and added to the fleet, at a cost of \$240,000.
- In addition, through the Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP), excess Federal property is loaned to state forestry agencies and their cooperators for wildland and rural community fire protection. The total value of FEPP inventory in South Carolina is about \$30 million.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Targeting fuel management and reduction on high priority areas, especially wildland-urban interface areas.

- 38,910 acres of hazardous fuel reduction treatments have been accomplished to date and documented in the National Database as of July 27, 2001.
- An additional 71,000 acres of planning and NEPA to prepare for FY 2002 fuel reduction treatments

is also underway in FY 2001.

Community Assistance

Enhancing community capacity to reduce wildfire risk and expand local economic opportunities.

- State Fire Assistance provides \$804,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$484,000 in base funding. The program will focus on countywide fuel assessments, to prioritize at-risk communities, identify partners, and develop and implement wildfire hazard risk mitigation plans.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance provides \$113,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$74,000 in base funding. The program awards grants to address the needs of South Carolina's 800 rural volunteer fire departments, for training, equipment, protective materials, and supplies. In 2000, 87 volunteer fire departments received grants, from 123 that requested assistance.
- Economic Action Program focuses on high fire risk areas mostly in the wildland-urban interface areas, where conventional prescribed burning is not feasible. The program will help support a region-wide assessment of fuel loads and burned areas, to guide planning of longer-range strategies to reduce fuel loads and minimize risks to people and property in South Carolina.
- Community and Private Land Fire Assistance will provide support to communities in burned and impacted areas. Grants will support community planning, pilot projects and activities to mitigate the impacts of past fires, reduce the risks of and prepare for future fires, and explore economic opportunities that arise from the National Fire Plan, such as establishment of dry hydrants, stewardship planning and fuel management, hazard mitigation, and utilization of wood products from removed fuels.

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